



**APPENDIX** 

# **Editorial correspondence**

#### For the preprint:

Charpentier MJ and Kappeler PM. (2018). A reply to 'Ranging Behavior Drives Parasite Richness: A More Parsimonious Hypothesis'. *arXiv:1805.08151* [q-bio]. arXiv: 1805.08151

# Peer-reviews, decisions and author's responses

Recommendation DOI: 10.24072/pci.ecology.100001

Recommender: Cédric Sueur

Based on reviews by: anonymous and anonymous

2018-06-07

Preprint DOI: https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.08151

**Author's reply:** 

2018-06-05

Dear Authors, The two reviewers and I agreed that your paper is interesting an merits to be published. However, the reviewers raised the points that your answer became at some places quite emotional and aggressive. Could you please revise your paper according to the reviewers comments and I would be pleased to recommend this preprint in PCI Ecology. I stay at your disposal for any question. Best,

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### Reviewed by anonymous reviewer, 2018-05-30 11:53

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The text is a rebuttal to a critique of an earlier paper. As such, I don't believe there is need for a strong review--the response length is presumably largely at the discretion of the editor; otherwise, the authors should be allowed to rebut as length permits. That being said, I largely agree with the authors' points. However, while they are clearly laid out in the abstract, elsewhere they become somewhat more emotional. For instance, the entire 'omission' section weakens the paper and could be reduced to 2 or 3 sentences. I couldn't really care less about the authors resentments--I just want to know why their points are valid or not.

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We agree that publishing our reply to American Journal of Primatology is more suitable. This is the reason why we did submit this reply in the first instance to American Journal of Primatology who declined our response. We are copying the editor's reply here (in italics):

"Thank you for your recent submission, "A Reply to 'Ranging Behavior Drives Parasite Richness: a More Parsimonious Hypothesis". [...] I think it is important for you to know that AJP does not solicit responses to our papers. The paper by Bicca-Marques and Calegaro-Marques was submitted independently. In addition, AJP does not publish responses, even unsolicited, as such; all submissions must contribute new ideas, data, or information. Our "commentary" category is peer-reviewed and the articles must stand

alone and not merely be responses to other articles. The Bicca-Marques paper went for peer review, went through revision, was judged to contribute independently to the literature, and was ultimately accepted.

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We agree that the scientific discourse should be transparent, but that was definitively not how our reply was handled (see above). That being said, we have removed this final paragraph entirely, as suggested.

Assumption 1--there is some debate here about whether the parasites are pathogenic or not. Why does it matter? Animals will move to avoid pests whether or not they are pathogenic. Caribou (and people) will move considerable distances to avoid mosquitoes even if they have no pathogenic effect; similarly, I will avoid areas of ticks (even those I know are not pathogenic). It seems awfully narrow-minded to focus only on the pathogenicity of the parasites.

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